

## SPUD-U-LIKE

There are many remedies within the Solanum (Solanaceae) group –

Atropinum  
Belladonna  
Capsicum  
Datura  
Dulcamara  
Fabiana  
Franciscea  
Hyoscyamus  
Lycopersicum  
Mandragora  
Stramonium  
Tabacum  
Withania

but I would like to offer an insight into those that are called Potatoes –

Solanum mammosum  
Solanum nigrum  
Solanum tuberosum  
Solanum tuberosum aegrotans  
Solanum, which is a substance obtained from many of the Solanums but especially potatoes.

Common to the whole group are symptoms that have a violence and suddenness to them and pains/sensations are characteristically spasmodic, jerking, shooting, choking. There is a lot of rage and blackness and fear of sudden death. Opposite to this, understandably, is stupor, fainting and unconsciousness that represents an escape from the turbulence. To complete the triad of active, passive and compensatory states there exists a cheerful and vivacious energy that allows them to be courageous in the face of adversity.

The chain reaction begins with an initial disturbance of being poisoned (all the potatoes have the potential to be poisonous), which is akin to being disillusioned, bitter and resentful. This 'poison' sets up the turbulence –

Shrieking delirium (solanum nigrum and solanium)  
Destruction (solanum tub aeg – the rotten potato)  
Loquacity (solanum tub aeg)  
Irritability (solanum mammosum)  
Anxiety, cannot keep quiet (solanum mammosum)  
Exasperation, about the consequences (solanum mammosum)  
Censorial and critical (solanum tub aeg)  
Fearful – delusion thieves are in the house; fear of robbers.

This delusion and fear is the innermost focal point of the group – something has been taken away from them and so there is a reaching out, grasping, reaching to get it back (grasps with hands, reaching gestures – solanum nigrum).

They also make chewing and swallowing gestures (solanum nigrum) – these being symbolic of taking, holding on without having to give it back.

Much of this fear is fuelled by believing they will die suddenly; they have frightful dreams (solanum and solanum nigrum) or dream of death with violent weeping (solanum mammosum).

So, caught up in the turmoil with no respite terminates into an inability to express themselves appropriately –

Loquacity (solanum tub aeg)  
Speaks in broken sentences (solanum mammosum)  
Cannot keep quiet (solanum mammosum)  
Stammering (solanum tub)  
Constantly spitting (solanum tub)  
Sardonic laughter (solanum nigrum)  
Lameness (solanum mammosum)  
Shaken back and forth (solanum mammosum)  
Hurried breathing (solanum tub)  
Paralysis (solanum)

Escape comes in the form of –

Stupor (solanum mammosum)  
Abnormal sleep (solanum mammosum and solanum)  
Lost consciousness (solanum tub and solanum)  
Attempts to escape (solanum nigrum)  
Prolapse (solanum tub aeg)

Developing pathology includes -

Tumours (solanum tub)  
Convulsions (solanum tub and solanum)  
Paralysis (solanum mammosum, solanum)  
Ergotism with tetanic spasms (solanum nigrum)  
Amaurosis (solanum nigrum and tub)  
Prolapse (solanum tub aeg)  
Swellings (solanum tub aeg)  
Meningitis (solanum, solanum nigrum)  
Tetanus (solanum)  
Coxalgia – linked with Hodgkin's disease (solanum mammosum)  
Hemoptysis (solanum mammosum)  
Congestive headaches (solanum nigrum)

Nearly all have violent gastric ailments.

This selection of Solanums have some interesting common names –

*Solanum nigrum* is called black nightshade – an indication of the deep blackness that prevails.

*Solanum tuberosum aegrotans* is called the rotten potato, which speaks for itself.

But of all the potatoes *Solanum mammosum*, also called the Love Apple or Apple of Sodom, has the most endearing connotations – that of all that is forbidden.

Marilyn Manson's song cuts to the core (if you'll excuse the pun).

"I found the center of the fruit is late, it is the center of truth today."

"I drained my heart and burn my soul, I trained the core to stop my growth, I pray to die in space, to cover me in snow."

"I'm dying, I hope you are dying too."

"Take this from me, hate me, hate me."

"He is a speed bump mannequin, he can't move just stand still."

"I've got something you can never eat."

(thanks to [penguin67@centrum.cz](mailto:penguin67@centrum.cz) for these lyrics).

Thanks also for reading. Think I'll stick to French fries. Joy Lucas. February, 2005.